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TO: INFO DIRECTOR.

1. IN CONSIDERING REF QUESTION, SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND.

A. AFTER 3 YEARS OF A HIGHLY POLITICIZED ENVIRONMENT UNDER ALLENDE, CHILEANS ARE TIRED OF POLITICS AND POLITICIANS OF ALL TYPES. ALTHOUGH THIS PROBABLY WILL CHANGE IN TIME, THE BULK OF CHILEANS, INCLUDING THE MILITARY, DO NOT APPEAR READY FOR A RETURN OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED POLITICAL RECESS. PART OF THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT'S IDEOLOGY IS THAT THE FAILURES OF THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM AND OF THE POLITICIANS WAS THE DIRECT CAUSE OF CHAOS THAT FORCED THEIR INTERVENTION. AS THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING ADMINISTRATION TO THE OF U.O., THE MILITARY BLAME THE PDC FOR A LARGE RESPONSIBILITY IN SETTING SCENE FOR ADVENT OF MARXIST GOVERNMENT.

B. THE MILITARY APPEARS TO BE ENJOYING ITS ROLE IN THE NEW

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GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT ANXIOUS TO TURN IT OVER TO CIVILIANS, WHICH TO MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS WOULD MEAN THE PDC. IN FACT, SEGMENTS OF THE MILITARY AND ITS CIVILIAN ADVISORS ARE LOOKING AHEAD TO CONSTRUCTING A NEW POLITICAL BASE WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE GOVT TO PERPETUATE ITSELF IN ANY FUTURE ELECTION, AS A CONSEQUENCE THE MILITARY LOOKS AT THE PDC AS SOMETHING OF A COMPETITOR.

C. THE GOVT HAS AS ITS FIRST PRIORITY THE "RECONSTRUCTION" OF CHILE, AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES THAT DISTRACT NATIONAL ENERGIES FROM THIS GOAL ARE NOT WELL RECEIVED WITHIN GOVT CIRCLES.

2. WITH THESE POINTS IN MIND, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE JUNTA WOULD AT BEST BE LUKEWARM IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE PDC. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTACK AGAINST THE PDC AS SUCH, JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL JOSE MERINO AND AIR FORCE GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS SEEM TO BE CRITICAL OF THE PDC. CARABINERO GENERAL MENDOZA ON THE OTHER HAND APPEARS TO HAVE PDC LEARNINGS, ALTHOUGH AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE HAS MADE NO EFFORT TO INTERVINE WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA IN BEHALF OF THE PDC. THE MOST IMPORTANT JUNTA MEMBERS, ARMY GENERAL PINOCHET, HAS NOT YET INDICATED A BIAS FOR OR AGAINST THE PDC. HE SEEMS TO BE MOTIVATED BY PRAGMATIC CONSIDERATIONS

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AND IS TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO LIVE WITH THE PDC, IN THIS REGARD, PINOCHET REPORTEDLY HAS GIVEN GENERAL OSCAR BONILLA, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, THE TASK OF "HARMONIZING" THE PDC WITH THE GOVT AND SAYING THAT BONILLA'S OWN FUTURE DEPENDS ON HOW SUCCESSFUL HE WILL BE IN PREVENTING CONFLICT BETWEEN THE GOVT AND PDC.

3. PDC SOURCES, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE REPORTED THAT THERE IS LITTLE CONTACT AND DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVT, AND THAT BONILLA, DESPITE HSI FORMER CLOSE TIES WITH THE PDC FROM HIS TOUR AS PRESIDENT FREI'S AIDE DE CAMP, HAS NOT BEEN VERY SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR DESIRES AND NEEDS. THE PDC'S AND FREI'S POSITIONS, HOWEVER, ARE TO AVOID FRICTION AND CONFRONTATION WITH THE JUNTA. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE LEFT-WING ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARTY WHO ARE NOT AS CONCERNED ABOUT COLLIDING WITH THE GOVT.

4. IN SUM, WHILE THE JUNTA MAY NOT BE HOSTILE TOWARD THE PDC AS YET, THE RELATIONS ARE SOMEWHAT STRAINED AND PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO FOR SOMETIME.

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